

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 12-15, 17-35, 39-42, 44-58, 60-62 and 64-66 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 30, and 57 being independent. Independent claims 1, 30 and 57 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 59 and 63. Claims 9-11, 16, 36-38, 43, 59 and 63 have been canceled. No new matter has been introduced.

Independent claims 1, 30 and 57, and their dependent claims 2, 8-10, 12-21, 36, 37 and 39-48, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,404) in view of Omshehe (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069172) and Acampora (U.S. Patent No. 5,497,504). Claims 3-7 and 31-35, which depend from claims 1 and 30, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Omshehe, Acampora and Richmond (U.S. Patent No. 6,990,592). Claims 11 and 38, which depend from claims 1 and 30, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Omshehe, Acampora and Sakakura (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0046413). Claims 22, 23, 49 and 50, which depend from claims 1 and 30, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Omshehe, Acampora and Franke (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0195929). Claims 24 and 51, which depend from claims 1 and 30, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Omshehe, Acampora, Franke and Banerjee (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0122947). Claims 25-28 and 52-55, which depend from claims 1 and 30, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao, Omshehe, Acampora, Franke, and Gatz (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0049806). Claims 29 and 56, which depend from claims 1 and 30, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao, Omshehe, Acampora, Franke and Malik (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003084).

Each of claims 1, 30 and 57 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 59 and 63 and, therefore, applicants respectfully request that the above-stated rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The \$120 Petition for Extension of Time fee is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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